

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/588,288
Reply to OA dated January 28, 2009

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as their invention, in particular, the feature of Claim 2 is added to Claim 1. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. Claims 2 and 4 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated January 28, 2009.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is amended in a manner to overcome this rejection. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takashi et al. (JP 07-019369) in view of Itoi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,556,072). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

It is respectfully submitted that JP'369 does not disclose the alleged spring receiver (58) being screw fit to the operating shaft (14), as now found in Claim 1.

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In JP'369, adjusting the pressure spring (30) requires the screw member (53) as a separate component, and the structure to attach the screw member (53) is not simple. In the present invention, by contrast, since the male threaded portion (40a) of the operating shaft (6) threadedly engages the spring receiver (43) directly, just a revolution of the operating shaft (6) enables the adjustment of the pressure spring (44), and the structure is extremely simple.

In view of the amendment to Claim 1, and the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takshi et al. in view of Itoi et al. as applied to Claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Kolenc (U.S. Patent No. 5,215,286). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Claim 3 depends from Claim 1, which is discussed above.

In view of the amendment to Claim 1, and the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendment and accompanying remarks, Claims 1 and 3, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned agent at the telephone number

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indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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